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One case of whooping cough in a child 2 years old has been the only contagious disease reported in this city during the past week.

The case of leprosy mentioned in my previous reports is still awaiting trial in the civil hospital of this city. From what I have been able to learn, it is likely that some time will elapse before the patient is transferred to Habana. This is to be regretted, inasmuch as the ward where the patient is confined does not meet properly the requirements of isolation and, consequently, there is danger of the disease being propagated.

The attention of the sanitary authorities has been called to this subject without any decision being taken, so far, to avert the impending peril. Unlike every seaport town of any importance in this island where a lazaretto or isolation station has been established the city of Matanzas has made no provision in this important matter, and there are no ready means by which to meet any emergency that may arise.

The mortuary statistics of Matanzas for the first ten days of the present month will be forwarded with my next report.

Reports from Santiago.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Wilson reports, March 2 and 8, as follows: During the week ended February 27, 1904, bills of health were issued to 6 vessels bound for the United States.

No quarantinable disease has been reported.

During the last week we have had almost daily rains in the afternoon. Most of these were light showers.

Mortuary report for the week ended February 27, 1904.

| Causes of death. | Number. | Bertillon number. |
|--|---------|-------------------|
| Pernicious fever | 1 | 4 |
| Tubercle of lungs | 4 | 27 |
| Meningitis | 1 | 61 |
| Organic heart disease | 1 | 79 |
| Pneumonia, fibrinous | 1 | 93 |
| Gastro-enteritis (under 2 years) | 1 | 105 |
| Cirrhosis | 1 | 112 |
| Placenta previa | 1 | 136 |
| Arrested development | 1 | 151 |
| Ill-defined or unspecified | 1 | 179 |
| Total | 13 | |

Annual rate of mortality for the week, 14.85 per 1,000. Estimated population, 45,500.

During the week ended March 5, 1904, bills of health were issued to 4 vessels bound for the United States. No quarantinable disease has been reported.

Mortality report for the week ended March 5, 1904.

| Causes of death. | Number. | Bertillon number. |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Malarial fever..... | 1 | 4 |
| Pernicious fever..... | 1 | 4 |
| Hæmoglobinuric fever..... | 1 | 4 |
| Tubercle of larynx..... | 1 | 26 |
| Tubercle of lungs..... | 1 | 27 |
| Syphilis, hereditary..... | 1 | 36 |
| Cerebral softening..... | 1 | 65 |
| Tetanus, infantile..... | 1 | 72 |
| Endocarditis..... | 1 | 78 |
| Organic heart disease..... | 1 | 79 |
| Pneumonia..... | 1 | 93 |
| Intestinal occlusion..... | 1 | 108 |
| Cirrhosis..... | 1 | 112 |
| Bright's disease..... | 1 | 120 |
| Congenital icterus..... | 1 | 151 |
| Cyanosis of the new born..... | 1 | 152 |
| Ill defined or unspecified..... | 1 | 179 |
| Total..... | 17 | |

Annual rate of mortality for the week, 19.42 per 1,000. Estimated population, 45,500.

FRANCE.

Epidemic of typhoid fever at Brest.

Consul Ridgeley, at Nantes, reports, February 18, as follows:

Much attention has been called to an epidemic of typhoid fever which has prevailed for some time past in the garrison of infantry at Brest. Brest is a city of 80,000 inhabitants, situated on the extreme western headland of France, and is the most important naval port of the Republic. It is also an important military garrison.

Typhoid fever declared itself nearly three months ago in the ranks of the soldiers, and since that time 120 cases have been treated at the marine hospital. There have been 15 deaths at this hospital, and there are still 71 cases under treatment. In the city itself there have been during the same period only about 30 deaths, which is not considered very extraordinary. The total number of cases in the city, however, has not been officially reported.

The causes of the epidemic do not appear entirely clear, though a sanitary commission which came from Paris to study them concluded that the water used at the barracks had been contaminated by the lavoirs in which the troops washed their clothes. This opinion, however, is not concurred in by the inhabitants and the local authorities, who contend, on the other hand, that the water supplied to the garrison from springs in the neighborhood is of a pure and excellent quality. It is held by many of the latter that the real cause of the epidemic was the foul condition of the old and dirty barracks and the crowding together of the soldiers in limited quarters. The weather has been very wet for six months, and the damp clothes of the troops hanging about the crowded quarters where they slept exuded, it is claimed, the germs of miasma which resulted in the epidemic of typhoid. In support of this last contention, as against the report of the Paris commission, the fact is cited that in another adjacent barracks which is much less crowded and better ventilated not a single case of typhoid has appeared.